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Terms & Conditions

Electronic submissions are mandatory.

In addition to the online application, one electronic copy of the full application in PDF format must be sent to the Grant Administrator by the deadline listed.

Requirements and guidelines for submitting a letter of intent and full proposal are available when you log in to the NAAR Grants Administration System at:

www.naar.org/research/login.asp

For related inquiries, please contact us at:

National Alliance for Autism Research
99 Wall Street, Research Park
Princeton, NJ 08540

Attn: Susan Kravitz, Grants Administrator

E-mail: grantadmin@naar.org

Call toll free in the US at (888) 777-NAAR,

or (609) 430-9160, ext. 23

FAX: (609) 430-9163

Fellowships Available

for Pre- and Post-Doctoral Candidates
in Language & Autism: Co-Mentor Program

The National Alliance for Autism Research (NAAR) announces the availability of Pre- and Post-Doctoral Fellowship awards in language and autism research. These awards are mentor-based, which means that the application is submitted by the fellowship sponsor rather than the prospective fellow. NAAR is requesting applications for pre- and post doctoral training opportunities, involving co-mentors, one with research expertise in communication/language and the other from the field of autism. NAAR provides support for biomedical research related to the cause, cure, treatment and prevention of autism spectrum disorders. NAAR supports both basic and applied research, as well as clinical and non-clinical research endeavors. **Relevant scientific disciplines include, but are not limited to:** Cognitive Development, Language, Linguistics and Augmentative Communication Strategies, Child Language Development, Speech-language Pathology, Psychology, Neuropsychology.

Review Criteria

This RFP is a response to one of the research priorities recommended by participants of the autism, language, and communication research planning meetings sponsored by NAAR and the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) in February and June 2004. The purpose of this Mentor-Based Pre/Postdoctoral Fellowship in language communication and autism is to support the training of scientists in a dual-training environment conducive to bridging the gap between those researching primarily language/communication and general child language development and those researching primarily autism. Awards will be made to established and active investigators in autism and language research for annual support of pre- and post-doctoral fellows who will work under their close supervision of their thesis advisor/mentor. Review criteria include the quality and activity of both the mentors' research programs; the quality and feasibility of the co-mentorship, cross-site arrangement; the candidate's previous experience in language and/or autism research; the commitment of the applicant's institution to expanding and enhancing autism research and training at such institution, the support and facilities available at the sponsoring institution, and the suitability of the research plan and proposed training program. Applications that incorporate methodologies from outside the realm of psychology and language or clearly explore the biology of Autism are preferred. The proposed training program must demonstrate and establish a clear path for the candidate's future career in autism research, regardless of the scientific discipline.

Eligibility Criteria

Pre-Doctoral Fellowships: Candidates selected by the funded investigator must be an enrolled student in a program leading to a research doctorate such as Ph.D. or Sc.D. or a combined degree, such as M.D./Ph.D., in a relevant academic department of a university or health/medical institution. Research support may be used for preparation of the dissertation. The Fellowship candidate must spend at least 80 percent of his/her time working on the project outlined in the research plan of the application. The selected fellow may not hold simultaneously another named fellowship award.

Post-Doctoral Fellowships: Candidates selected by the funded investigator must hold an M.D., Ph.D. or equivalent terminal degree and must not simultaneously be serving an internship or residency. The selected fellow must not hold a tenure track faculty appointment during the support period. The Fellowship candidate must not have more than five years of post-doctoral experience at the commencement of this award. The Fellowship candidate must spend at least 80 percent of his/her time working on the project outlined in the research plan of the application.

Before submitting an application for research support, an applicant must submit a letter of intent briefly describing the project. Depending on whether a letter of intent is deemed to meet NAAR's funding priorities, the investigator will be invited to submit a formal proposal. All proposals are carefully reviewed by NAAR's distinguished Science Advisory Board.

FELLOWSHIP SUPPORT

Pre-Doctoral Fellowships: Stipends range from \$18,000 to \$22,000 depending upon years of prior training. A \$5,000 research allowance is provided to partially cover fringe benefits, supplies and travel. No indirect costs are covered in this fellowship.

Post-Doctoral Fellowships: Stipends range from \$28,000 to \$53,000 depending upon the number of years of the fellow's relevant post-doctoral and/or clinical experience. A \$7,000 research allowance is provided to partially cover fringe benefits, supplies and travel. No indirect costs are covered in this fellowship.

- **Deadline for Receipt of Letter of Intent:** **November 23, 2004**
(Requests for extensions of time must be submitted via e-mail to the Grant Administrator; Invitations to submit a full application will be sent via e-mail the week of December 13, 2004).
- **Deadline for Receipt of Completed Application:** **January 31, 2005**

Fellowships will be announced by July 2005; funding will commence by July 2005 and is conditional upon all of the Terms & Conditions being met.